Merger of Indian Airlines with Air India

3272. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal for the merger of Indian Airlines with Air India;

(b) if so, the expected date when the merger is likey to take place;

(c) the reasons why Government propose to merge Air India and Indian Airlines into one organisation; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines will require detailed examination and planning which will take some time. At present, the two airlines are exploring possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors. Appointment of Joint Chairman and common Board of Directors will facilitate desired level of integrated functioning.

Promotion of wild life tourism in Orissa

3273. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to promote adventure and wild life tourism in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): The Department of Tourism has schemes under which financial assistance is provided to various State Governments for development of adventure, wild life tourism and other activities. The State Government forward proposals for central financial assistance based on the requirements of particular area which are approved on the basis of availability of funds and interse priority. The following schemes have been approved and funds sanctioned for the development of adventure and wild life tourism in the State of Orissa:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Amount sanctioned	Year
1. Aero sports equipment, Barunie Hill	17.15	1991-92
2. Water sports equipment, Gopal Pur on Sea	8.00	1991-92
3. Water sports equipment, Hirakund etc.	15.43	1990-91
4. Construction of forest transit lodge, Chandbali	14.96	1990-91
5. Construction of forest lodge, Tikarpara	14.96	1990-91
6. Trekking equipment to be utilised at Mahendergire	1.99	1992-93
7. Swiss tented accommodation, Korank beach	15.00	1992-93